



UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

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JEAN-LOUIS ENEQUE and ANGEL PINAREYES:
Individually and on Behalf of All Other Persons :
Similarly Situated, :

Plaintiffs, :

-against- :

METROPOLITAN CABLE
COMMUNICATIONS, INC. and
TIME WARNER CABLE, INC., :

Defendants. :
-----X

09 CV. 6831

**COMPLAINT AND
JURY DEMAND**

JUDGE GARDEPHE

Plaintiffs JEAN-LOUIS ENEQUE and ANGEL PINAREYES (hereafter collectively "Plaintiffs"), by counsel and on their own behalf and on behalf of all others similarly situated, individually and as a Collective Action Representative, for their Collective Action Complaint against Defendants METROPOLITAN CABLE COMMUNICATIONS, INC. ("Metropolitan Cable") and TIME WARNER CABLE, INC., ("Time Warner") (hereafter collectively "Defendants"), allege, upon information and belief, except for the allegations concerning Plaintiffs' own actions, as follows:

NATURE OF THE ACTION

1. Plaintiffs allege on behalf of themselves and other similarly situated current and former cable installers/technicians employed by Defendants who elect to opt into this action pursuant to the Fair Labor Standards Act ("FLSA"), 29 U.S.C. § 216(b), that they are: (i) entitled to unpaid wages from Defendants for work performed for which they did not receive

any compensation, as well as overtime work for which they did not receive overtime premium pay or, if they were working on a piece-work basis, were not paid premium pay for the piece work cable installations completed during hours worked in excess of forty hours in a workweek, as required by law, and (ii) entitled to liquidated damages pursuant to the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. §§ 201 *et seq.*

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

2. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over Plaintiff's FLSA claims pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 216(b) and 28 U.S.C. § 1331.

3. Venue is proper in this district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1391 as a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the claims occurred in this District.

4. This Court is empowered to issue a declaratory judgment pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 2201 and 2202.

THE PARTIES

5. Plaintiff Jean-Louis Eneque ("Eneque") was, at all relevant times, an adult individual, residing in New York, New York. From in or about 2006 until July 2009, Plaintiff was employed by Defendants as a cable technician/installer.

6. Plaintiff Angel Pinareyes ("Pinareyes") was, at all relevant times, an adult individual, residing in Bronx, New York. From in or about 2007 until in or about 2008, Plaintiff was employed by Defendants as a cable installer/technician.

7. Defendant Metropolitan Cable is a corporation organized and existing pursuant to the laws of New York, with its principle place of business at 2658 Borough Place, Woodside, New York 11377. According to its website, <http://www.metrocablecom.com/>, Metropolitan Cable has extensive knowledge of the cable industry and provides RF

Installation, Broadband Installation, TapAudit, Converter Exchange Programs, Construction, System Upgrade, MDU Construction and Block Wiring, with “over 100 years of hands on cable experience”.

8. Defendant Time Warner Cable Inc., a leading telecommunications, media and entertainment company, is a corporation organized and existing pursuant to the laws of Delaware, with its place of business at 60 Columbus Circle, 17th Floor, New York, New York 10023. According to its web site, www.timewarnercable.com/Corporate/about/highlights/default.html, Time Warner is the second-largest cable operator in the U.S., with technologically advanced, well-clustered systems located mainly in five geographic areas — New York State (including New York City), the Carolinas, Ohio, southern California (including Los Angeles) and Texas.

9. Defendants Metropolitan Cable and Time Warner are establishments that, both individually and collectively, are engaged in related activities performed through a unified operation or control, for common business purposes.

10. Defendant Time Warner employed Plaintiffs and other similarly situated employees by using a subcontractor system. Defendant Metropolitan Cable is a subcontractor of Defendant Time Warner. Defendants Time Warner and Metropolitan Cable controlled and supervised the work performed by Plaintiffs and other similarly situated individuals. Specifically, Time Warner provided on-site supervision over the Plaintiffs, provided Plaintiffs with uniforms and identification badges, directed Plaintiffs as to locations in which they were to work and directed Plaintiffs to fill out daily paperwork documenting completed assignments.

COLLECTIVE ACTION ALLEGATIONS

11. Pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 207, Plaintiff seeks to prosecute his FLSA claims as a nationwide collective action on behalf of all persons who are or were formerly employed by Defendants throughout the United States, as cable installers/technicians at any time since August 3, 2006 to the entry of judgment in this case (the “Collective Action Period”) and who were not paid for hours that they actually worked, as well as for overtime compensation at rates not less than one and one-half times the regular rate of pay for hours worked in excess of forty hours per workweek or, if they were working on a piece work basis, were not paid premium pay for piece work cable installations they completed during hours worked over forty hours per work week (the “Collective Action Members”).

12. This collective action class is so numerous that joinder of all members is impracticable. Although the precise number of such persons is unknown, and the facts on which the calculation of that number could be made are presently within the sole control of the Defendants, there are at least 100 Collective Action Members during the Collective Action Period, most of whom would not be likely to file individual suits because they lack adequate financial resources, access to attorneys or knowledge of their claims.

13. Plaintiffs will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the Collective Action Members and have retained counsel that is experienced and competent in the fields of employment law and class action litigation. Plaintiffs have no interest that is contrary to or in conflict with those members of this collective action.

14. A collective action is superior to other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of this controversy, since joinder of all members is impracticable. Furthermore, inasmuch as the damages suffered by individual Collective Action Members may

be relatively small, the expense and burden of individual litigation make it virtually impossible for the members of the collective action to individually seek redress for the wrongs done to them. There will be no difficulty in the management of this action as a collective action.

15. Questions of law and fact common to Collective Action Members predominate over questions that may affect only individual members because Defendants have acted on grounds generally applicable to all members. Among the common questions of law and fact are:

- a. whether the Defendants employed, either individually or jointly, the Nationwide Collective Action members within the meaning of the FLSA;
- b. what proof of hours worked is sufficient where employers fail in their duty to maintain time records;
- c. whether Defendants violated C.F.R. § 516.4 by failing to post or keep posted, a notice explaining the minimum wages and overtime pay rights provided by the FLSA in any area in which Plaintiff and Collective Action Members are employed;
- d. whether Defendants failed to pay Plaintiff and the Collective Action Members for all hours which they worked and, whether they received proper overtime compensation for hours worked in excess of forty hours per workweek, in violation of the FLSA and the regulations promulgated thereunder;
- e. whether Defendants' violations of the FLSA were willful as that term is used within the FLSA; and

- f. whether Defendants are liable for all damages claimed hereunder, including but not limited to compensatory, punitive and statutory damages, interest, costs and disbursements and attorneys' fees.

16. Plaintiffs know of no difficulty that will be encountered in the management of this litigation that would preclude its maintenance as a collective action.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

17. Plaintiffs Eneque and Pinareyes worked as cable installers/technicians for Defendants, installing Time Warner equipment at various premises. Their work was performed in the normal course of the Defendants' business and was integrated into the business of the Defendants.

18. At all times relevant to this action, Defendants were the joint employers of the Plaintiffs within the meaning of the FLSA. Defendants do not act entirely independent of each other and are not completely dissociated with respect to the employment of the Plaintiff. Defendant Time Warner, together with Metropolitan Cable, maintains authority, control and supervision over Plaintiffs and established the employment policies that were applied to Plaintiffs.

19. Defendants benefited financially from the work performed by Plaintiffs.

20. Defendant Metropolitan Cable acts directly in the interest of Time Warner in relation to any supervision it provided over Plaintiffs in the workplace.

21. As joint employers, Defendants are both individually and jointly responsible for compliance with all applicable provisions of the FLSA.

22. Plaintiffs often worked in excess of 40 hours a week, yet the Defendants willfully failed to pay Plaintiffs proper compensation for all of the hours worked by them as

well as overtime compensation of one and one-half times their regular hourly rate or, if Plaintiffs were working on a piece-work basis, Defendants willfully failed to pay premium compensation for the piece work they completed during hours worked in excess of forty hours in a workweek.

23. Throughout the Collective Action Period, the Defendants likewise jointly employed other, similarly situated cable installers/technicians. Such individuals have also worked in excess of forty hours a week yet the Defendants have likewise willfully failed to pay them compensation for all of the hours worked by them as well as overtime compensation of one and one-half times their regular hourly rate or, if they were working on a piece-work basis, Defendants willfully failed to pay Collective Action Members, premium compensation for the piece work they completed during hours worked in excess of forty hours.

24. The exact number of such individuals is presently unknown, but within the sole knowledge of the Defendants and can be ascertained through appropriate discovery.

25. During the course of Plaintiffs' employment, and while Defendants employed Plaintiffs and the Collective Action Members, the Defendants failed to maintain accurate and sufficient time records.

26. Throughout all relevant time periods, Defendants failed to post or keep posted a notice explaining the minimum wage and overtime pay rights provided by the FLSA.

**CLAIM FOR RELIEF:
FAIR LABOR STANDARDS ACT**

27. Plaintiffs, on behalf of themselves and all Collective Action Members, reallege and incorporate by reference paragraphs 1 through 26 as if they were set forth again herein.

28. Plaintiffs consent in writing to be a party to this action, pursuant to 29 U.S.C. §216(b).

29. At all relevant times, Defendants have been and continue to be, employers and/or joint employers, engaged in interstate commerce and/or the production of goods for commerce, within the meaning of the FLSA.

30. At all relevant times, Defendants have jointly and/or individually employed, and/or continue to individually and/or jointly employ, Plaintiffs and each of the Collective Action Members within the meaning of the FLSA.

31. At all relevant times, Defendants, individually and/or jointly, suffered or permitted the Plaintiffs and the Collective Action Members to work for them.

32. At all relevant times, the Defendants had a policy and practice of refusing to pay premium overtime compensation to cable installers/technicians for the hours they worked in excess of forty hours per workweek as well as compensation for all hours worked by them.

33. As a result of the Defendants' willful failure to compensate its cable installers/technicians, including Plaintiffs and the Collective Action Members for all of the hours worked by them, at a rate not less than one and one-half times the regular rate of pay for work performed in excess of forty hours in a workweek, the Defendants have violated and continue to violate, the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. §§ 201 *et seq.*, including 29 U.S.C. §§ 207(a)(1) and 215(a).

34. As a result of the Defendants' failure to record, report, credit and/or compensate Plaintiffs and the Collective Action Members, the Defendants have failed to make, keep and preserve records with respect to each of its employees sufficient to determine the wages, hours and other conditions and practices of employment in violation of the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. §§ 201, *et seq.*, including 29 U.S.C. §§ 211(c) and 215(a).

35. The foregoing conduct, as alleged, constitutes a willful violation of the FLSA within the meaning of 29 U.S.C. § 255(a).

36. Due to the Defendants' FLSA violations, Plaintiffs, on behalf of themselves and the Collective Action members, are entitled to recover from the Defendants their unpaid wages as well as overtime compensation, liquidated damages, reasonable attorneys' fees, and costs and disbursements of this action, pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 216(b).

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

Wherefore, Plaintiffs on behalf of themselves and all other similarly situated Collective Action Members, respectfully request that this Court grant the following relief:

- a. Designation of this action as a nationwide collective action on behalf of the Collective Action Members and prompt issuance of notice pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 216(b) to all Collective Action Members, apprising them of the pendency of this action, permitting them to assert timely FLSA claims in this action by filing individual Consents to Sue pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 216(b) and appointing Plaintiffs and their counsel to represent the Collective Action Members;
- b. A declaratory judgment that the practices complained of herein are unlawful under the FLSA;
- c. An award of unpaid wages as well as overtime compensation due under the FLSA;
- d. An award of liquidated and/or punitive damages as a result of the Defendants' willful failure to pay for all hours worked as well as overtime compensation pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 216;

- e. An award of prejudgment and post judgment interest;
- f. An award of costs and expenses of this action together with reasonable attorneys' fees and expert fees; and
- g. Such other and further relief as this Court deems just and proper.

DEMAND FOR TRIAL BY JURY

Pursuant to Rule 38(b) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Plaintiffs demand a trial by jury on all questions of fact raised by this Complaint.

Dated: Rye Brook, New York
August 3, 2009

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